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PTO8013

E19

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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 WHA-00
PERC-00 DS-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 L-00 VCE-00 AC-01
DCP-01 NSAE-00 ACE-00 IRM-00 ASDS-01 DSCC-00 DRL-02
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /005W

-----D3F788 021841Z /38

R 021815Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7003
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D), B2

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002249

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO
INR FOR FERNANDEZ
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL:08/01/12

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, VE
SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT DECISION CAUSES CHAOS: FIRST REPORT

REF: CARACAS 2224

CLASSIFIED BY DCM FREDERICK B. COOK FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND
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(D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) THE DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT ON JULY 31 THAT
TURNED DOWN REBELLION CHARGES AGAINST FOUR GENERAL OFFICERS
HAS LED TO CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND SHOOTINGS IN DOWNTOWN
CARACAS FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS. AT LEAST TEN PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN HOSPITALIZED FROM BULLET WOUNDS.

CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA HAS
CALLED ON THE ARMED FORCES TO RESTORE ORDER AND THE
NATIONAL GUARD IS BEING DEPLOYED AROUND PUBLIC BUILDINGS. A

B1, B2

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B1, B2

VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT OVER THE DECISION

2. (U) THE DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT ON JULY 31 THAT
TURNED DOWN REBELLION CHARGES AGAINST FOUR GENERAL OFFICERS
HAS LED TO CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND SHOOTINGS IN DOWNTOWN
CARACAS FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS. BEGINNING ON JULY 29, WHEN
PRO-CHAVEZ CROWDS STARTED TO CONGREGATE IN FRONT OF THE
COURT, TENSIONS HAVE BEEN BUILDING. POLICE NEEDED TO
DISPERSE RIOTERS AFTER THE DECISION ON THE 31ST, BUT LOW-
LEVEL VIOLENCE HAS CONTINUED, WITH SOME INTENSE GUNFIRE
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OCCURRING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY ON AUGUST 2. (THE
POLICE CROWD CONTROL TANK, "THE WHALE," WAS SHOWN ON
TELEVISION RIDDLED WITH BULLET HOLES.) AS OF 1200 LOCAL
TIME WE LEARNED AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED
WITH GUN SHOT WOUNDS. THAT NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO RISE.

B1

TROOPS CALLED IN BY PENA
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5. (U) CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA CALLED ON THE ARMED FORCES TO RESTORE ORDER, AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS AND ARMORED CARS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED NEAR PUBLIC BUILDINGS. MEANWHILE, VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL AND INTERIOR MINISTER DIOSDADO CABELLO HAVE ATTACKED PENA'S METROPOLITAN POLICE AND CALLED ON THEM TO WITHDRAW.

6. (U) THE EAC IS MEETING TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION. DETAILS TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

SHAPIRO.

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